

Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society

## Calendar

- **October 18, 2012**  
Regular Meeting  
Species Auction  
7:00 PM social time  
7:30 PM meeting  
Speakers will be  
Ernie Metcalfe and  
Rachael Moloney
- **October 20, 2012**  
Smith Garden Work  
Party  
Lunch will be served
- **October 23, 2012**  
Board Meeting  
7:30 PM  
Van Veen Nursery

## Meeting Info

Regular chapter meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month (except in June, July, and August which have other events).

**Meetings start at 7 pm** with a social half-hour preceding the main meeting. We clean up and exit by 9:30 pm.

**Location: All Saints Episcopal Church** - At the corner of SE 40<sup>th</sup> and Woodstock, Portland, Oregon



## Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden, Past, Present and Future

We are fortunate to have Ernie Metcalfe and Rachael Moloney for our speakers at our October meeting.

Ernie Metcalfe is a well-known and respected ARS Portland Chapter member. He has been a member since 1976 and was awarded the Bronze Medal in 1990 for his efforts on behalf of the Chapter. Ernie has worked endless hours at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden and has photographed many of the “before and after” images we have of the Garden over the years. He has a wealth of knowledge and is a joy to listen to.

Rachael Moloney is our Chapter’s Event Coordinator for Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden and has held that position for two seasons. Rachael is very involved in the Garden and works to ensure that guests enjoy fabulous events at the Garden.

Together, Ernie and Rachael will give us some insights into the Garden, past, present and future. There will be time for others to add in a few of their own stories of the Garden, as well.

Our October meeting is a regular meeting and will include our traditional Rhododendron species auction. Please, bring some plants to auction off for the benefit of the Chapter! We will also have Halloween Potluck Treats ( just like trick-or-treating when we were all a few years younger ) and Halloween Costumes, too. This can serve as your “rehearsal” for that Halloween Costume you are conjuring up for this year’s festivities.



Rhododendron spinuliferum, one of the parents of R. ‘Seta’, which is an early bloomer here. Photo courtesy of Mike Stewart.

## Purpose

To encourage interest in and disseminate information and knowledge about the genus *Rhododendron*.

To provide a medium through which all persons interested in the genus may communicate with others through education, scientific studies, meetings, publications, and other similar activities.

The Portland Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is registered in Oregon as a 501 (C)(3) non-profit organization. Dues and donations are qualified charitable tax deductions.

## Meeting Calendar through November, 2012:

**October 18, 2012**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Rhododendron species auction**  
**Halloween potluck treats and costumes**

**7:00 PM social time**

**7:30 PM meeting**

**Speakers: Ernie Metcalfe and Rachael Moloney**

**Topic: Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden, Past, Present and Future**

**October 20, 2012**  
**Smith Garden Work Party**  
**Lunch will be served**

**October 23, 2012**  
**Board Meeting**  
**7:30 PM**  
**Van Veen Nursery**

**November 7, 2012**  
**Dormancy Luncheon**  
**Noon**  
**Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden**

**November 15, 2012**  
**Regular meeting**  
**7:00 PM social time**  
**7:30 PM meeting**  
**Program: TBA**

**November 20, 2012**  
**Board Meeting**  
**7:30 PM**  
**Van Veen Nursery**

## Haiku

Beyond a day's heat  
 -- nightfall, steeped in soundlessness  
 save the screech owl's call

The rustling branches  
 not from wind, but from the jump  
 of summer's squirrel

Trill of the cricket  
 night clouds; a peek-a-boo moon  
 Where has summer gone?

Early September  
 The starkness of the shadows  
 ever more vivid

September sundown  
 Those scattered clouds, edged in gold--  
 against azure skies

By Peter Kendall

Tualatin Valley ARS Chapter  
 Meeting Date and Location has  
 changed:

**New meeting night:**

First Tuesday of the month

**New meeting place:**

Washington County Fire District #2  
 31370 NW Commercial Street  
 North Plains, OR 97133

## Re-Cap of the September Meeting

By Tom Hoffman

Larry Stanley, Stanley and Sons Nursery, gave us a fun, entertaining and educational talk on miniature conifers at our September meeting. Larry brought several boxes filled with beautifully grown and presented miniature conifers, both to illustrate his talk and for sale to our Chapter members. What are miniature conifers, and how do they differ from full-sized conifers? The American Conifer Society, in cooperation with European growers, has developed standards for conifers. For example, a miniature conifer makes new growth of 1" or less annually, where a dwarf conifer may make between 1" and 6" of new growth each year. In comparison, conifers classed as intermediate growers put on between 6" and 12" of new growth, and regular conifers can grow 12" or more every year. Where are miniature conifers found? The hunt for miniature and dwarf conifers is world-wide, everywhere conifers grow naturally, as well as in field-grown seedlings. Larry told us many intriguing stories about the miniature conifers he brought with him; his travels have taken him to Europe and New Zealand, to date. Miniature and dwarf conifers find homes in rock gardens, trough gardens, container and patio gardening, bonsai, miniature railroading and the newest trend, 'gnomenculture' or fairy gardening, to name a few uses. Larry gave us the important cultural requirements of miniature conifers, such as planting on a mound, above grade for good drainage, mulching to keep soil from splashing onto the plants, gentle grooming to remove dead foliage using our fingers, watering and sun/shade needs.

The September meeting drew a good crowd, 30 people by my count. In addition to our speaker, we had our traditional cuttings exchange, with some choice material on offer. E. White Smith oversaw the raffle, and reminded us that we are all encouraged to bring plants for the raffle. Treats were excellent and very tempting, thank you to our members who baked those goodies for us. We also passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers to bring treats for our meetings. With our President out of town, our Vice-President Brenda Ziegler and Past President Mike Domaschofsky officiated. We also announced the change in meeting date and place for the Tualatin Valley ARS Chapter to the attendees. ( See notice on page 2 )

## Smith Garden Fall Work Party, Saturday, October 20th, 2012

Tom will have jobs posted on the garage doors.

Please know that your help is appreciated, even if you can only spend a few hours. We have had a great turnout the past two years. We are hoping for good weather! Remember, "many hands make light work."

Bring your gloves, and a favorite tool if you want.

Lunch will be served.



*R. cinnabarinum* ssp. *xanthocodon*

## **Rhododendron ABC's: What is a Species?**

**By Dr. David Goheen**

Almost every endeavor that involves collection, study, nature and classification of things, inanimate or animate, results in an accumulation of descriptive words. These words, in the course of time, become a sub-language or jargon known perfectly well by persons engaged in the various endeavors. To newcomers who encounter the jargon, the descriptive words are foreign and may even be “turn-offs” that cause the novice enthusiasts to lose interest and feel inferior to more experienced and veteran enthusiasts.

So it is with our favorite subject, Rhododendrons. Of the many jargon words we use when discussing our favorite plants, probably no word is used more than species. This is a relatively simple word that appears to be plural, but which can be used with a singular or plural meaning. So it is somewhat unique. Ask any enthusiast what is a species, and the person will know immediately what you are asking. But it turns out that it is not really easy to come up with a precise and concise definition. One thing to remember is that the word is always seemingly plural. Specie has an entirely different meaning, literally, the “coin of the realm”.

So just what does the word species imply? In the botanical world, we can say that a species is a group of plants naturally occurring in the wild; that includes plants which are so nearly alike in their main characteristics that they might have come from the same seed parent. Indeed, the main test to determine if a plant is a species is to cross it either with itself or with another plant in the same group and see if the offspring are like the parents, similar to each other, or if they diverge from each other in significant traits. Thus, we can see that species is an arbitrary term used to indicate close relationship and that it really represents a primary ‘blood’ relationship and is regarded as the unit of classification of all plants; a group of species is a genus and a group of genera is a family.

One of the charms of the study of rhododendrons is to cultivate species collected from many diverse areas and try to grow them to the flowering stage. To our everlasting satisfaction, rhododendron species, in contrast to many other plant species, freely interbreed with numbers of other rhododendron species and can produce swarms of fertile individuals with differing characteristics and which are called hybrids. The number of possible hybrids is almost limitless.

Remember, always use the word in its plural form, whether talking about the many species of rhododendrons or a single rhododendron species.

## **Board Highlights: September 26th Meeting**

**By Maria Stewart**

Bud Bowen, Portland Chapter Board member and owner of The Ainsworth House in Oregon City, invited us to have our September meeting at his home. Before the meeting, we enjoyed walking in his gardens while Bud talked about his favorite plants. The center of attention is a huge pine tree which provides drama for events in the gardens.

During the meeting, we worked on the job description for the gatehouse coordinator. More discussion will follow by e-mail on that subject. Dick Cavender is working on identifying donor-restricted funds. Steve Hopkins reported on insurance we recently acquired for the officers and the Board. The October Board meeting will be held at Van Veen Nursery on October 23rd at 7:30 PM.

## Remembering Dr. Robert “Bob” Ticknor

(Taken from “*The Pacific Coast Rhododendron Story*”)

With sadness, we announce the passing of Dr. Robert Ticknor. Bob was a life member of the Portland ARS Chapter. He was known for his horticultural research and for his hybridizing. Bob worked at the North Willamette Experiment Station where he was involved in breeding rhododendrons and pieris. Hundreds of crosses were made, tested for resistance to *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, and then evaluated. Among his hybrids is the azaleodendron ‘Valley Sunrise’, a stunning combination of an orange blotch against a background of violet. Even more well-known is his hybrid, ‘Shamrock’, a dwarf lepidote with chartreuse flowers that blooms around St. Patrick’s Day. He is also credited with extensively testing and introducing the beautiful blue-purple lepidote, ‘Blaney’s Blue’. In one of his numerous articles, Bob listed the responsibilities of the hybridizer: (1) select cultivars tolerant of local conditions; (2) understand that compact plants are more popular than leggy ones; (3) distribute one clone only under a name; (4) choose a descriptive name that is easy to spell; (5) test the cultivar at more than one location; (6) name only plants intended for distribution, and (7) name only superior and distinct plants. His work was known throughout the country.

Bob actively participated in the American Rhododendron Society, serving as Secretary/Treasurer and as President in 1971. He was also active on the Society’s Research Committee. The Portland Chapter awarded him the Bronze Medal and in 1970, the ARS awarded him its highest honor, the Gold Medal.

A Celebration of Life will be held for Bob at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden at 2:00 PM on Sunday, October 7, 2012. Cards may be sent to his family at: 844 North Holly Street, Canby, OR 97013.

## In Memory of Eleanor Stubbs

By Maria Stewart

The Portland Chapter is now sadly missing another one of its members. Eleanor Stubbs passed away on September 13, 2012. Eleanor was an energetic leader and contributor to the Chapter. Earlier in her life, she taught high school home economics in California. Then the family moved to Oregon and Eleanor became the head of the Home Economics Department at Clackamas Community College until she retired in 1981. She was the Editor of the Portland Chapter newsletter and President of the Chapter from 1988 until 1990. Eleanor contributed to the creation of the book published by the Portland Chapter, “*The Pacific Coast Rhododendron Story*” and consulted for the “*Sunset Western Garden Book*”. She was also a member of the Azalea Society of America and the Oregon Association of Nurseries. She enjoyed volunteering at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden. Eleanor and her husband, Art, owned and operated Stubbs Shrubs in West Linn where they nurtured a large collection of evergreen azaleas. She was awarded the Chapter’s highest honor, the Bronze Medal. Eleanor’s memorial service was Saturday, September 29th, in Portland. You may send cards to: The Family of Eleanor Stubbs, 2215 NE 45th Avenue, Portland, OR 97213.

## **In Memory of Bill Ferguson**

### **By Friends and Family**

Bill Ferguson was born in Minneapolis, MN in 1920, and lived through the Great Depression and the Second World War, as well as the Korean Conflict, where he served as a Pharmacist' Mate on U.S. Navy vessels. Bill felt that his greatest break was the G.I. Bill. Under that legislation, Bill received a free education at the University of Minnesota, where, in 1949, he received both a Bachelors and a Masters degree. It was at the University where Bill met Eleanor Anderson and they were married shortly after his graduation. Bill found in marriage and parenthood great joy, and realized that family was of pre-eminent importance to him. Bill had a very successful career in the public health field, typically serving in the role of Director of Field Services.

Bill retired in 1982 and moved with Eleanor to Portland, to be close to their daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren. His retirement years were spent at the Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden, where he manned a shovel, moving earth, planting trees and shrubs, as well as serving as Chapter secretary. Bill was instrumental in bringing Crystal Springs into the national Rhododendron Society. Bill wrote the Chapter's newsletter as well as its fundraising literature. His photos of the Garden were all over the organization's literature.

Kathy Van Veen writes: "Much of what we see today in the Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden did not exist in 1983, the year Bill retired and began volunteering here. That includes the gatehouse, 2 new bridges, a network of ADA-compliant paths, three stone stairways, 3 waterfalls, a fountain, a fernwall and miles of rock edging, much of it done by Bill and his friend Dean Prater. Bill deadheaded, weeded, planted rhododendrons and memorial trees, was publicity chairman for the Mother's Day show, volunteered in the gatehouse and served on that long-range planning committee that resulted in the garden you see here today. In his spare time, he was secretary for the Portland Chapter for 4 years". Bill was instrumental in establishing the Friends of Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden, as well. He was awarded the Bronze Medal, the highest award the Portland Chapter bestows on its own members, in 1996 in recognition of his long service and many accomplishments on behalf of the Chapter and the Garden.

A memorial service for Bill was held on Saturday, September 22nd, 2012 at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden.

## President's Corner

By Maria Stewart

Our hats are off to all the members of Vancouver Island who organized and put on the ARS Nanaimo 2012 Conference during September 21st through September 23rd. They did a fantastic job of making us feel welcome, choosing excellent speakers and guiding us through their gardens. The plant sale, photo display, silent auction and foliage display all drew our attention and added to the overall success of this conference.

The setting in Nanaimo was a beautiful choice, with the host hotel being very close to the harbor. There are mountains and water in plentiful supply all around Nanaimo. Each set of garden tours treated us to three gardens in the Nanaimo area. It was fun to see the big-leaved species living happily in those gardens; the warming effect of the surrounding ocean water was evident. On Sunday, the final day of the conference, attendees toured Milner Gardens and Woodlands.

Whenever a regional conference or convention is announced, please think about attending it. The opportunity to visit with friends is the big bonus that comes with the speakers, tours and plant sales. Just possibly, the conviviality is the best part of the conference!



Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden. Photo courtesy of Ernie Metcalfe.

Portland Chapter of  
the American  
Rhododendron  
Society

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CHAPTER OFFICERS

President: *Maria Stewart*  
Vice President: *Brenda Ziegler*  
Past President: *Mike Domaschofsky*  
Secretary: *Carol McCarthy*  
Treasurer: *Dick Cavender*

BOARD MEMBERS

(Through June 30, 2014) **Ann Clack,  
Ray Clack, Bud Bowen, Kathy Van  
Veen, , and Betsy Soifer**  
(Through June 30, 2013) **Caroline  
Enns, Steve Hall, Steve Hopkins,  
Mike Stewart, Dave Collier**

GARDEN INFO:  
Crystal Springs Rhodo. Garden

Chair:  
**Bob MacArthur**, 360-256-2522  
Tours/Volunteering:  
**csrgvol@me.com**  
Gatehouse:  
**Rose Kress**, 503-654-4318  
Friends:  
**Kathy Van Veen**, 503-777-1734  
Events:  
**Rachael Moloney**, 503-975-6743

Cecil & Molly Smith Garden  
Chair: **Ginny Mapes**, 503-647-2896

Newsletter, membership, and  
ownership: The Portland Chapter is  
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meeting. Send materials to either:  
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Franklin, PO Box 86424, Portland,  
Oregon 97286, or to Tom Hoffman,  
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